

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



Agriculture, Horticulture, Live Stock and Rural Economy,

THE OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MARYLAND, AND FOR TEN YEARS THE ONLY ONE.

Vol. XXIII. BALTIMORE, OCTOBER, 1886. No. 10.

EDITORIAL LETTER, No. 2.

BAR HARBOR, Aug. 28, '86.

Who is there at the present day to whom the name, Bar Harbor, is not familiar. The most illustrious of the land, and the humble seeker after rest and health, are alike welcomed to this now famous resort. It is indeed a delightful place in which to spend the hot days of summer. Its natural wonders of land and sea, its purity of air, yachting, fishing, buck-board riding up its mountains, its many scenes of interest and of beauty invite us to linger in their charmed circle, and give a happy description of all to our readers. But we are interested in other fields, and leave this work to hands accustomed to portray in vivid colors the fascinations of such localities. While there are a great number of large hotels here, the travel this summer has been so very great that many complaints have been heard of the want of hotel accommodations, and there are now under contract here, to be finished by July next, more than a hundred cottages. The

capitalists, also, seem aroused to unusual activity by the hosts who have this summer invaded the place, and to keep up with the increased demand, have made arrangements to put up several additional hotels of ample dimensions to accommodate the great public the coming year. The West End Hotel is one of the best hotels in the place, and Mr. Shaw its proprietor "knows how to keep a hotel," and makes all comfortable and happy around him.

Bar Harbor is a pleasant place in which to rest weary minds and recuperate weary bodies, but it is the last place in the country where one should go to learn anything of agriculture; and as this is our great purpose even in our summer recreation and rambles, we must be mapping out our work in that direction. Next week the great New England Fair will be held in Bangor, and we expect to spend the week at this Fair amid the excitement of farmer throngs, the exhibition of live stock, the crowd of improved machinery for agricultural purposes. It will

be a great change from this pleasure resort; but it will be a change in harmony with our feelings, and we trust of great good to our readers.

Bangor, Sept. 3, 1886.

We have been spending the promised season at the great fair, and before we give any description of what we saw on the grounds, we wish to place here for the benefit of our readers, some of the remarks of a general character from the address of ex-commissioner Loring, the President of the N. E. Agricultural Society. He speaks of Maine in terms which will apply to other regions, and which should give encouragement to us especially who live in so genial a climate, and are cultivating land under so much more favorable circumstances than can possibly be had in that latitude with its long, cold winters, abundance of snow and ice, and its short summers.

President Loring said:—"Gentlemen of the Society: We have assembled for the second time in this agricultural section, rich in natural resources, and offering opportunities to industrial enterprise of almost every description. The State of Maine lying far up in the northern latitudes of the United States, continues to develop its many attractions year by year until it vies with many of those newer commonwealths, whose fertile soil and great forests have drawn together hardy, enterprising and successful multitudes of men. These picturesque and romantic shores have furnished abodes of wealth and luxury, in which the art of man seems to vie with nature in creating structures appropriate to the beauty of the mountain and sea. What the shores of the Mediterranean are to the European, the shores of Maine are fast becoming to the American, who, leaving the enervating influences of crowded cities, seeks invigoration in the arms of nature. We are in the neighborhood of Aroostook county, the garden of the east. Covering an area four times as large as Rhode Island, a third larger than Connecticut, three-fourths as large as Vermont and four-fifths as large as New

Hampshire, it is rich in soil and forests, in ores and quarries, in streams and lakes. A county in which three or four hundred bushels of potatoes are raised to the acre is entitled to the respect and admiration of every tiller of the soil. We are told that seven farmers in one section of this county raised from 505 acres in grass and 260 acres in cultivation, 550 tons of hay, 14,848 bushels of potatoes, 652 bushels of wheat, and 4,646 bushels of oats, 1,275 bushels of buckwheat, and 200 bushels of rye. And this section is but a sample of many others in the county.

The traveller through New England is always struck with the air of thrift and comfort he finds in the homesteads lying along the highways. Well tilled fields, well ordered buildings, well arranged fences, and well-to-do people, greet him on every hand. True, there are deserted farms in secluded places; but these are few in the populous counties, and they indicate rather the judgment of those who left them for more genial spots, than the decay of that industry to which they were once devoted. The agriculture of New England has gathered around the thriving populous and wealthy manufacturing communities which are found at every water-fall, and whose industry invigorates all co-ordinate occupations, builds up schools and colleges and churches, and gives life to an active, cultivated, prosperous people. He who has seen this would be slow to believe that the occupants of this soil are doomed to a hard and unprofitable toil, or that the evidences of prosperity around him are superficial and illusory. A careful study of the facts and figures will remove all doubts, and satisfy him that the thrift is real, and that the agriculture of New England rests on a substantial and profitable foundation."

In closing, the president gave the following tribute to the railroads of Maine, and we hope this may be applicable to our Maryland roads:

"For the success of our fair we are largely indebted to the liberality of the railroads in the State of Maine, and as far as possible to the great lines of railway connecting this State with the other New England States and the Maritime Provinces. The Maine Central road has never

failed to recognize the importance of encouraging the agricultural interests of the State. By easy freight rates on farm produce, and by free transportation of animals and objects for exhibition at the agricultural fairs, the railroads of Maine have done much for the farmers of the State and I deem it proper on this occasion to acknowledge our obligations to those who have shown us this consideration."

And with this introduction, let us now see what is worthy of our notice in the "Great N. E. Fair." There are great and surging crowds of people, but it is not necessary to go among the crowds. They are busy with the side shows, and the minor interests and sports of the occasion. We will visit the machinery department, the real substantial exhibits of the farms, and take a look at the live stock. The crowds are not so great in this direction; but those who are here are more appreciative of the purposes of agricultural Fairs and more anxious to reap the great advantages such exhibitions offer to the thoughtful farmer.

Passing through the array of agricultural machinery, we come to the building erected by Mr. Fred Atwood, one of the live men of New England, and always a leader wherever anything attracts his attention enough to interest him, and promises good to himself or others. This building, quite conspicuous, is fitted up with private apartments for himself and friends, also free rooms for the press, and seems to be head-quarters for visitors generally, and contains his very extensive exhibition of tools and implements arrayed in an attractive manner. The collection included nearly everything needed in running a farm, together with household supplies, from his patent safety kettles to a creamery churn and butter worker. In this same building Mr. M. M. Bartlett, the manager of the North Wayne Tool Company, gave a fine display of their scythes, hay knives, grass hooks and axes. The variety was extensive and the

quantity on exhibition very large. This is the company of which Gov. Bodwell is the president, and is referred to elsewhere.

CATTLE—Holsteins.—The oldest herd in America of this breed of cattle are on the Houghton farm in Putney, Vt. The proprietor is Mr. Frederick L. Houghton, Boston, Mass. It consists of thirty (30) head here on exhibition.

Among the largest exhibits of cattle on the ground is that of Burleigh & Bodwell of Vassalboro. They have this year entered fifty-five head of cattle including twenty pure bred Herefords, twelve Sussex, two grade Polled Angus and twenty-two Hereford steers ranging in age from sixteen months to five years.

The Sussex herd is headed by the two bulls Red Cloud and Rose Duke. Among his Sessex stock are the two well known cows, Mary Fern 9th and Magdala 24th.

The Sussex are one of the heaviest varieties of cattle, and are said by Mr. Burleigh to possess the best combination for beef and dairy purposes. Every pure Sussex is mahogany red with grey switch to tail.

Most noticeable amongst their exhibit is the herd of twenty-two Hereford steers which have been raised and managed entirely by Thomas G. Burleigh, a young son of Mr. Burleigh's. This young man has had entire charge during the past year, and has taken fortnightly notice of the result of his feeding and at some future day will give the public the benefit of his experience. Remarkable gains have been made by some of these steers in the last nine months. In that time the sixteen months old pair gained in girth twenty inches and twelve hundred pounds now tipping the beam at twenty-six hundred. There are in the herd other and older steers which have gained sixteen inches in girth and made twenty-six hundred in weight. This exhibition of steers is the pride of its owner and has never been

equaled in New England, considering age, weight and quality. One pair of pure bred three-year-old steers has been exhibited three times by Mr. Burleigh in Chicago and Kansas City, and they have borne off the blue ribbon each time. Messrs. Burleigh & Bodwell have made a specialty of breeding Hereford stock, and have endeavored to purchase the very best animals. We must say that to us one of the most interesting sights we saw upon the grounds was E. A. Bailey's team of 17 yoke of working oxen with not a blemish in one of them, all perfect specimens and well broken so that a child could drive them. We saw these cattle at Mr. Bailey's farm in Winthrop before the fair commenced, and they are referred to in our letter from that place published in this number.

The Whitman Agricultural Works, Winthrop, Maine, had amongst their extensive exhibit of Farm machinery their patent double-acting Hay Press which was in operation, and attracted more attention than any other piece of machinery on the grounds. We learn it received a gold medal which was well deserved. While we hurriedly visited all parts of the grounds and examined as well as we could the exhibits, it would be impossible to describe them in detail. There were on exhibition 250 horses and more than double that number of cattle, the exhibit of sheep and hogs was very large, the poultry, dairy, fruit, seed and vegetable display was excellent, the household department was one of the best ever seen in the State. The great event of the week is racing, and we notice there are 50 entries on the books for each of the four days. The grounds, grand stand and all the arrangements at this fair compare favorably if not surpass any other fair in the country.

The exhibition was held by the N. E. Agricultural Society in connection with

the Eastern Maine Fair. The Officers of the two Organizations worked together in harmony, and we have never seen a fair better conducted. The net receipts are to be equally divided between the two Societies, and with an average attendance of 20,000 persons each day, we judge the finances must be in good shape.

We were pleasantly and comfortably domiciled at the Bangor House, F. O. Beal, Proprietor, where we remained six days, and had a good opportunity to observe all that was to be seen at this great fair. We shall take occasion to again refer to it.

West End Hotel.

E. W.

ASSORTING.

We do not like to be told of our faults, and yet it is very true that "he is our best friend who most freely shows us our faults." Such showing must always be beneficial if it causes us to mend and improve ourselves. If the fault is in our business policy, pointing it out to us may be the means of making or of saving money for us. A fault that many of us are guilty of is a neglect to assort our products. In some cases this proceeds from indolence; in others from a desire to make the greatest possible amount of money, and this desire defeats itself. Rather than have a bushel less of apples, potatoes or grain, or a few pounds less of tobacco or hay, to sell, we do not assort out that of inferior quality. We trust that the good will increase the price paid for the bad; but on the contrary, the bad reduces the price of the good. Half our potatoes are of number one quality, and half are of a grade less. We market both grades together; and instead of their selling for the highest price, they bring only the price paid for the less grade. Clearly they are not composed of the highest quality, hence do not bring

the best figure prevailing in the market. If we had assorted the potatoes, we would have received for the better the highest market price, and for the second grade the same price that we received for the whole crop sold together. It is better to have less to sell, and have it properly assorted. No money is ever made by selling bruised, scrubby or malformed apples with solid, large, shapely ones; in fact, it is better not to sell the former at all. It is a great help towards getting the best market price to have a reputation for not selling inferior articles of any sort. People will soon learn that the products you put upon the market are always first-class, and the result will be a sure demand for them at good figures. It must not be understood, however, that while we would have you sell only the best, we would also have you to keep only the poorest for your own consumption. We believe in a farmer keeping for himself as good as he sells. But more money would be made in the end by feeding the bruised or scrubby apples, the small potatoes, etc., the *poorest* of each product, to the farm animals, or by disposing of it in some such way, than by using it or marketing it. If you market products of the second grade, do not market them with the best, and have it distinctly understood at the time that they are second grade.

Assorting, properly managed, requires very little time. The proper time for assorting is as the products are being harvested. As the potatoes are being dug out, the apples picked from the trees, the wheat being hauled to the stack, the hay to the mow, etc., any part of such a quality that it is most inferior to the bulk can be separated and stored to itself. In comparison with the labor required, few, if any, of the operations of the farm will bring a larger return.

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER, with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

TREES IN FIELDS.

It is a serious mistake for farmers to allow a living tree of any kind to remain in a cultivated field. Orchards and shade trees too the farmer must have, but we repeat that the cultivated field is not the place for them. The ground devoted to grain, cotton, tobacco and other plowed and hoed crops, should be clear of all obstructions and impediments to cultivation—should be devoted to these crops exclusively; and the parks and orchards should be the place for the trees.

A living tree in a cultivated field drains the soil of its moisture, they shade the soil and the crop, and rob the crop of light, heat and fertility, and the constant dripping of water from the trees during a wet season, is sure death to most crops. They also occupy much ground, and detract very greatly from the average yield of the field. The ground is travelled over in cultivation, and thus much time is occupied to no purpose. The ground is almost unproductive as far out as the roots of the tree extend.

The rule should be to exclude all trees from a ploughed field. The plow should be carried over none but productive ground. Every foot of unfruitful soil passed over augments the cost of the crop, by increasing the time and labor and diminishing the yield. Not surface extent, but depth, wealth, and continuity of productive soil is the key to successful farming. There should be no breaks, no patches, stumps, stones, surface ditches, or anything else to break up the surface of a field into a patch-work of poverty and unproductiveness.

Of all impediments in a field, living trees are, perhaps, the worst. They spoil a large surface of ground, and they are never done robbing the soil of its strength as long as they continue to grow. If a tree is kept for its aesthetic effect in the

landscape, let half a rood of ground around it be thrown out of cultivation. It will be at the expense of the purse, but the rich can afford it. The ordinary farmer, however, cannot tolerate such a drawback. The field is not a lawn or pleasure ground.

AGRICULTURE.

PARIS, Sept. 4, 1886.

The subject of wheat culture is becoming a life and death question with French farmers. The increase in the "ways and means" of transport, the levelling of prices by the telegraph, and the increased expenses of cultivation, are the promoting causes which tell on the raising of wheat, and indeed of all cereals. It was not thus forty years ago. Since then, the world has marched forward. Labor was then cheap; wheat fetched 6 to 7 fr. a bushel, the yield was 35 bushels; the crop was rarely laid, and the only manure exacted, was that produced on the farm. Wool easily brought 19 to 23 sous per lb. and colza was a favorite crop, because it was followed by wheat or an annual forage. Colza was a fallow crop, and was a better preparation for grain than direct manuring, as the latter induced lodging in humid seasons and warm springs.

To day, beet replaces colza, and autumn sown wheats are the most productive. Lucerne is followed by two consecutive wheat crops, then succeeds oats, and next wheat again. This wheat crop suffers from the excess of nitrogen left in the soil, so the straw has to be stiffened by doses of potash or phosphate manures, which impart rigidity to the stems and correct lodging. Red, are generally found to be stronger in stalk than white wheats. Cultivating in drills, weeding and hoeing, produce the largest yields of wheat. It is thus, that Messrs. Nicolas and Raimon reap 35 to 40 bushels of wheat, and 60 to 70 of oats per acre.

Their soils are analysed before being cropped, and when they indicate a provision of 4,100 to 5,000 kilog. of nitrogen per acre, no nitrogenous manures are given, such as sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda. About 40 francs per acre is expended on

mineral manurings. The chief varieties of wheat grown are: the blue and white Bordeaux, Victoria, Autumn Red, Chiddham, Golden Drop and Australian Poulard. The above gentlemen cultivate a mixture of wheats, the Bordeaux and Chiddham; which gives three rows of ears of different heights, a plan they assert, which secures them 4 bushels more of grain per acre. The Chiddham, Victoria and Dattel wheats are remarkable for being exempt from the attacks of rust.

At the French Association for the advancement of Science, just held at Nancy, the chief subject of interest was, the condition of French, indeed one might say, of European agriculture, in presence of the augmenting competition with the products of the United States, India, Australia and South America. The consensus of the meeting inclined to the belief, that the future of French farming depended not on fiscal measures, but in the augmentation of yield, and in the adoption to culture of scientific methods, parallel with such as have benefited industry.

The freight per hundred-weight of corn, has fallen since some years, from 5 to 1 fr. for United States, and 10 to 4 for India. This reduction is due to the general employment of and improvement in steamers; to the Suez Canal route, the ameliorations on harbors, the machinery for the loading and unloading of cargoes, and the multiplication of railways. These facilities cannot be undone, so lower prices must be expected in the case of grain, as in every other industrial product. Russia, at Odessa, has tried the half-and-half plan. On the quays of that port, the railway wagons can shoot the grain direct into the holds of the ships; but in order to conciliate prejudices of the porters, the lifting machinery is put aside, so that porters may carry the grain on board.

In the employment of improved implements of cultivation, much remains to be done in the reduction of expenses. The old plough, still so general, only performs in the day of ten hours, one-fourth of the work that a modern plough easily accomplishes. Sowing grain in lines permits the use of the scarifier or hoeing machine to stir the soil and cut down the weeds, which like parasites appropriate the nutrition destined for other plants.

Nearly one-half the quantity of seed is saved by machine, as compared with hand sowing. Similar economy is to be obtained in harvesting; one man will mow, say two-thirds of an acre of corn daily, while a reaper will cut down 12 to 13 acres. In threshing with the flail too, a laborer can beat out 4 to 5 cwt. of grain per day, while a machine does its 550 bushels.

Large and small proprietors can alike benefit by these economical processes; the first, by his large capital or his credit, and the others, by grouping themselves into cooperative Societies to obtain the best and cheapest goods that certain payments and independence of sellers always command. France has plenty of home wealth to develop yet; she has 6 millions of acres to bring under irrigation; she has 80,000 to enclose from the sea, and 2½ millions to break up and reclaim.

M. Benoit, of Bousquet, has practically tested several of these guiding ideas by furnishing precise information to wheat growers—a grain occupying one-seventh of the cultivated surface of France. Now several reasons concur that France must rely on wheat as her staple, her national crop; hence the necessity to raise it better for the future, by the choice of the best seed, and the application to the soil of phosphate and nitrogen, wherever these indispensable agents are wanting. And these essential conditions are limited neither by climate nor soil. Where they have been applied, the yield of wheat per acre has risen from 15 to 35 bushels per acre.

M. Benoit's soil is a calcareous-clay, poor in all the elements of plant-food, save lime. He tried no less than 17 different varieties of wheat, to ascertain which suited his district best. He prepared the soil by four ploughings and two harrowings; sowed in autumn, with an application of phosphates; and in spring top-dressed with 130 lbs. of nitrate of soda per acre. The average yield of wheat in the neighborhood of Bousquet is only 13 bushels per acre.

M. Benoit obtained by improved processes, 28 bushels with the Dattel Blood Red and Bordeaux varieties of wheat; while the White Hunter, Square Head and Chiddham yielded only 12 to 15 bushels per acre. Now in other regions,

these varieties have given as high as 40 bushels per acre! Hence, the importance of selecting the appropriate seed-grain for a locality. By employing natural phosphate in powder, the phosphoric acid will not cost more than seven sous per lb; and the nitric acid, about fourteen sous. It is only natural from these facts, that the French government is fully justified in organising, as in Germany, a corps of ambulatory farming instructors, to impress on agriculturists, to prepare the land well for wheat, to choose the best and most appropriate seed, and advance to the land, phosphates and nitrates. At the same time, the banks will stretch many points in favor of small proprietors uniting themselves into syndicates for the purchase of the best materials for their industry.

BENEFITS OF THE GRANGE.

BY D. D. T. MOPRE.

THE MARYLAND FARMER in its August issue, did good service to the cause of some advancement by giving articles entitled "The Grange" and "History of the Maryland Grange." What the Editor says of grange organizations—which are to the Order of Patrons of Husbandry the same as lodges in Masonry and Odd Fellowship—is pertinent and interesting, but a further discussion of the subject may prove beneficial. Though of but comparatively recent origin—having been inaugurated less than twenty years—the P. of H. Order, or Grange as it is generally styled, has done much to advance practical agriculture, as well as for the mental improvement of those engaged therein. Through its National, State, District, and subordinate organizations (or granges), it has exerted a very wide and solutary influence—an influence which has greatly enhanced the intelligence, progress, and prosperity, and consequent elevation of its membership. The Grange has proved of immense benefit as an educator. Its meetings and discussions have been the training schools of many efficient men now holding prominent and influential positions. Many a young farmer has been made a fluent and even eloquent speaker by participating in discussions at the grange, and become so familiar with parlia-

mentary rules as to be able to preside over legislative and other bodies with dignity and ability. And not a few aged husbandmen have found, after practicing awhile at grange meetings, that they could talk well and forcibly while standing—a very rare accomplishment among rural citizens, and especially so before the days of farmers' club and grange organizations. Aside from the useful information derived from the discussions on practical and scientific topics, thousands of grange members have been trained to speak readily and intelligibly on various subjects, and thus qualified for the elevated positions which many of them now occupy.

Another means of education supplied by many granges is in valuable books, for not a few of them have good libraries—and those which have not should possess them as soon as possible. These books are interesting and instructive to members and their families, and we trust every subordinate grange and farmers' club in the land will ere long have a good library. And in this connection we are enabled to give some information from the best authority relative to grange libraries in this State (New York), and also as to what the noted Elmira Farmers' Club has done in the way of establishing a library. Last fall the writer addressed a note to Mr. W. A. Armstrong, who is master of the New York State Grange, and likewise Secretary of the Elmira Farmer's Club, inquiring in regard to the library of his club and also as to grange libraries. From the prompt and courteous reply received we quote as follows: "As to the Farmers' Club, it has had a library of two thousand volumes for more than ten years. Additions are made from time to time, and the books are free to takers, which comprise all members and their families. As to granges, I cannot say how many have libraries—can only estimate the number. Perhaps there are as many as fifty in the State that have libraries ranging from a few volumes to several hundred, and to these additions are made, while other granges are now endeavoring to establish libraries, so that a much larger proportion will be equipped with books within the next year."

The Grange has also been of great benefit to its membership and community by its advocacy and practice of peaceful

arbitration, in opposition to quarrelsome and expensive litigation. By adopting and living up to the principle of arbitration in settling disputes involving only small sums, probably millions in the aggregate have been saved to the grange membership of this country—while the saving in other respects (from loss of temper, peace of mind, etc.) can scarcely be estimated. The Grange has demonstrated that arbitration is not only the easiest, quickest and cheapest way to settle disagreements, but that it saves much vexation, loss of self-respect and subsequent dissension—is indeed a great promoter of peace, prosperity, good digestion and a clear conscience.

PAINT.

The farm upon which too much paint is used would be a great curiosity surely. Not one farmer in twenty makes the use of paint that he should; and while we are ready enough to admit that we should use paint more largely, we are very slow to reform. Some few have an idea that paint is only a beautifier; that it is to hide the ugliness of bare boards or to enhance the attractiveness of nice woodwork. But on the contrary, paint is rather to preserve the articles on which it is applied. It is not so much to please the eye of the rich as to preserve the property of the poor. It is for the poor rather than the rich. Only a rich man can afford to neglect the use of paint. For by this neglect he allows the air and moisture not only to eat at the surface of the wooden parts of his buildings, implements and machines, but to penetrate into the pores, to eat and rot there, destroying the fibre and the strength of the wood. Hence, paint which shuts out the air and the moisture from the surface and the pores of the wood, will not only make buildings and implements more durable, but will often avoid the breaking of an implement or machine. Such breakages are always vexatious, for they occur when the implement or machine is in use,

and when its further use is desired. Time is lost at the most critical moment; and usually this loss is great enough to exceed the cost of repairs.

But the paint is not to be applied to the wooden parts of implements and machines alone; it is a valuable protection to the metal parts as well. As the air and moisture rot wood so they rust iron and steel; and as paint excludes them, it prevents the rusting of the metal to which it is applied. For this reason the farmer should make frequent use of paint at this season. As each farm implement's season of active use ends, let both wood and metal parts be cleaned and then given at least one coat of paint. This will be found highly profitable. This is also the best season for applying paint to buildings, also. The temperature of the air is high enough to cause the paint to dry readily, and yet not high enough to drive the oil into the wood too rapidly. Roofs should be painted as well as the sides of the buildings. If kept painted they will last twice as long as they would without paint.

Neither paint nor painting is expensive. For ordinary purposes brown mineral paint is as good as any, and it is very cheap. Nor is it necessary to hire a high-priced painter to do the work, any man ought to be able to mix the ordinary solid colors; or he can buy good paints already mixed. And to apply paint to the outside of buildings, and to implements and machines requires no more skill than can be acquired in a half-day. However, there is no economy in using cheap oil. Get the best, and use *boiled* oil always. See advertisement of "Everybody's Paint Book" in this No.

GRASSES prosper on the great majority of soils—not on all—but those containing a fair proportion of clay and loam, with moisture, are the most profitable both for meadow and grazing.

OLD TRUTHS.

Fundamental truths in agriculture never grow old and will bear repeating once a year at least.

First fact.—No Farmer should attempt to cultivate more land than he can cultivate well. As a rule, twenty-five acres to each strong, able-bodied horse or mule is quite enough to put into a crop, and very often fifteen or twenty only would be the wiser plan. There is great difference in land, however, as well as in crops, and no inflexible rule can be laid down. A good horse can cultivate thirty acres of light, sandy soil; and by counting the area in winter grain-crops and pasturage, or grass, as high as fifty acres to the team may be counted. But it is too much.

Second fact.—Nothing is gained, but often very much is lost by distributing the labor and manure over too broad a surface. The Farmer had far better have less in area and more in depth of soil, and he would realize larger crops at less expense and save land for other uses. Farmers, as a rule, are too prodigal of land. Crops never entirely fail on a rich, deep soil and as it is far better as well as cheaper to confine operations to a small surface, and put the best labor and all the available manure of the farm on that.

Third fact.—Every obstacle in the way of thorough cultivation should be removed. Not a tree, log, stump, stone, ditch or gulley should be suffered to exist in a cultivated field. Every foot of ground should be utilized; there should be no barren spots and not a yard of travel should be lost in going around impediments. All obstacles occupy space, hinder cultivation and diminish the acreage yield.

Fourth fact.—Crops should be made to rotate. Land will produce more in a series of years by alternating the crops than by growing the same thing consecutively. This has been well established

by experiment. In general sowed crops should follow hoed crops, and surface-rooted be followed by top-rooted plants. The labor bestowed on one crop should fit the ground and make it smoother and easier for the next. The soil should not exhaust, but recuperate.

Fifth fact.—The soil of all tilled ground should be kept rich in humus and then the use of commercial fertilizers will pay. To make it immediately available the humus or rather the vegetable matter applied should be short and well decomposed. But every crop should as far as possible be made to leave some vegetable matter in the soil. The soil should have some vegetable stuff applied annually. Once in eight or ten years is often enough for lime or marl. Green crops and forest litter are the best forms of vegetable material. Animal manures cause great after-trouble in the distribution of pestiferous weeds.

EDITORIAL BRIEFS.

SKILLED LABOR.

Nothing will take the place of skilled labor on the farm. It is much better to pay a few dollars extra for a man with a mind, a skilful workman, than to save that pittance and get only a mass of brute strength which you must constantly direct in every little work to be done. The skilful man moves along intelligently and smoothly and your work is accomplished properly. The mere strong mass of flesh is quite as likely to do harm as to accomplish what you most wish to see done aright. Get the skilled man whenever you need help on the farm.

LOOK AHEAD.

He, who would succeed in life must have his eyes wide open and see what is going on around him, and take all proper advantage of what he sees, will benefit him. The Farmer, who is foresighted, who sees

in the spring what he will need most for his marketing in the fall and winter, is the one who succeeds best. He, who knows by his clear vision, from day to day, what he must have and use in the future and gets it when it is to be had at the very least cost of money, time and labor to him, is the right kind of a Farmer. He will get success even when many around him are failing.

DON'T GIVE IT UP.

It is discouraging to lay all your plans for a successful crop and then have them turn out a failure. But it should not be so discouraging that you should abandon your well matured plans in the future. Examine the matter and find where the mistake was or what caused the failure. "Don't give it up." Try it again on a small scale, remedying what appeared to cause the disaster before, and see if you cannot succeed this time. It is an old virtue we are now recommending to you; but it is a good one: "Perseverance." This will accomplish much. Experiments do not settle things by one trial, they must be repeated and repeated until the fact becomes a settled fact.

FOR WOMEN.

The first article of the Farmer's Creed at this present day should be: "Make the labor of wife and daughter as light as possible." Every step toward the age of barbarism can be traced by the additional burdens placed upon women, and every step toward civilization and enlightenment can be seen by some greivous burden taken from her life. At the very best the women on a farm have many hard labors to undergo and it is the very first duty of the Farmer to lessen and lighten them wherever possible. He shows enlightenment by being anxious to do this. He, who is careless and indifferent here, is disregarding the whole spirit and tendency of the present age.

THE RIGHT KIND.

There is quite a difference between the industrious man and the man who is always frittering away his time about little and useless things. Since our earliest days we have heard industry commended, but we have never heard that man commended who was busy about trifles. It is the industrious Farmer, who makes his farm of real value to his neighborhood, because all his work is of great and substantial worth. He is making improvements which are real and he is accomplishing what will be of positive benefit both to himself and others. This kind of industry make his life a success.

 THE WHEAT CROP OF MARYLAND
FOR 1886.

From the best sources of information gathered from all parts of the State, we are enabled to speak with some confidence as to the crop of wheat reaped in our State during the year 1886, which was beyond compare the largest in quantity ever grown in this State. First, because there was a larger area sown in the State than ever before, and secondly, owing to the favorable season and wealth, wheat growers were enabled to plant this seed in better order than usual, and all combining to effect a greater expectancy per acre than heretofore. A rivalry seems to have sprung up with our people as to improved husbandry in the preparation of the seed-bed and the progressive knowledge that all plants require some plant food if they are expected to return a living product. Again the low prices prevailing acted rather as a stimulant than a depression upon this product.

From the census of 1880, we learn that in 1879 there was sown to wheat in Maryland 560,296 acres, and the crop reaped in 1880 was 8,004,864 bushels. This must from various reasons be taken with some

grains of allowance. If, however, it approximated near the result, we are justified in saying from information furnished us that owing to some increase in area, excellence of improved preparation of soil and more fertilizer sown, together with an astonishingly growing season, the wheat crop of Maryland for this year was over 16,000,000 bushels. How much of that was lost by over-growth and "falling" badly in places by excessive wet about the time of harvest, wind and hail-storms, insects in certain localities, etc., we are not prepared to say, but of course great loss was sustained and will reduce considerably the number of bushels of wheat given above.

Isolated accounts of the growth of wheat and its immense yield per acre, averaging the amounts for large fields, not patches grown for effect, have reached us, and all over the State the harvest was a plentiful one, laboring under the drawback of rainy unpropitious weather for harvest and threshing. Although wheat is at present low in price, yet we are sure that it must ere long rise in prices, for a large portion of our wheat growing States have not been this year as fortunate as our little State, and all accounts agree that in Russia, India, Australia, and in England the crops are very indifferent and must greatly fall short of the usual supply of over-plus. Consequently there must be an European demand for our surplus grain, whether in flour or in its unground state. Such farmers as are in a condition to hold on to their grain awhile longer will reap the bonanza; but to do this some labor must be expended in winnowing the contents of their granaries or bins and thus keeping it sweet and free from damage by heating. Again the cribs or bins should be fumigated or white-washed with a little carbolic acid added to prevent insects, like weevil, etc. Of course at such fanning there will be a trifle lost, and there will be

shrinkage of the grain, but both apparent losses in bulk will add to its purity and value to a corresponding ratio that will well repay in its price for all labor and care thus bestowed.

DEER CREEK FARMERS' CLUB.

EXTRACT REPORTS.

Does It Pay To Raise Wheat?

Wm. Webster thought wheat can not be raised at a profit for less than 90 cents a bushel. There is no profit in raising twenty bushels to the acre, which will be the average crop in Harford this year. All farmers have not binders and must cut their wheat at greater expense than Mr. Moores did. It is true farmers must raise wheat, but should raise no more than will give them straw needed for bedding, etc. A set of grass may be got by seeding with oats.

Dr. R. D. Lee said that while wheat no doubt pays badly at present prices, it is an important factor in a successful rotation of crops. A farmer should therefore prepare and sow his crop of wheat as carefully as other crops. The price of wheat varies. Within his recollection the same crop rose from 80 cents to \$3. Farmers must therefore be prepared to gain by a rise of wheat or loss by a fall. He hoped farmers would not abandon raising wheat, even if they knew it to be unprofitable.

James Lee would not advise farmers to quit sowing wheat. A tenant can make money raising wheat, but a landlord cannot, for the reason that the former does not have the fertilizers to pay for and gets one-half the crop for his work. He thought Mr. Moores' estimate for threshing too high. He had 1,300 bushels of wheat threshed this year at 7 cents a bushel and had nothing to do with it except haul it to the barn. He estimated that one-third of the bone applied to wheat is consumed by the crop. At present prices he would not break up sod for wheat, if he could graze cattle.

B. F. Hanway's experience is that his wheat crop always brings him in debt. Occasionally he had raised 30 bushels and over. It takes about all he gets for his wheat to pay for his fertilizers.—He does

not plant it for profit but to get the land in grass. He did not think farmers should abandon it, but should sow a little every year.

S. M. Lee said of farmers, when he commenced farming, could raise wheat at \$1 a bushel, they ought to be able to raise it now profitable at 80 cents, because with the present facilities they can make two bushels with less expense than they could make one then. He thought Mr. John Moores' estimate of profit based on 30 bushels per acre was too high, but he was satisfied that an average crop of 25 bushels can be raised. The purchasing power of 80 cents, too, is very large now, except in the matter of labor, but he did not think the latter too high except in comparison with the products of labor. He would cut down Mr. Moores' fertilizer bill. By another rotation fully one-half the fertilizer could be saved and he would not put in two wheat crops in succession. He illustrated this point by the case of two brothers in Baltimore County. One uses commercial fertilizers while the other depends upon turning down green crops to preserve the fertility of his soil. This year their crops of wheat were about the same, but one had to take nearly all his crop to pay for fertilizers and the other had no fertilizer bills to pay. He had for years been convinced of the advantage of the system of farming with green crops. He did not ignore the value of commercial fertilizers, but thought farmers could do without them. He had seen 40 and 42 bushels of wheat raised without any fertilizer but a little land plaster.

John B. Wysong remarked that there is a small profit in wheat if 25 bushels per acre can be raised from an application of 400 or 500 lbs. of commercial fertilizer. The straw is worth \$3 per acre. Not more than one-third or one-half the fertilizer is taken up by the wheat, the remainder going to produce two good crops of hay. If the two crops of hay will pay for the fertilizer the only expense of raising the wheat would be for cultivation. The latter he thought less than stated by some members. He uses bone and phosphate on wheat, three-fourths bone to one-fourth phosphate. Farmers can't do without wheat and it is the best crop to sell, being easily hauled. The greater number of

acres put in the greater profit per acre per bushel.

Bennett H. Barnes did not think there is any profit in wheat at 80 cents a bushel if only 25 bushels per acre are raised. This year on a rented place his expenses for raising wheat, including fertilizer, were \$20 per acre and he got 25 bushels per acre.

Wm. D. Lee wouldn't like to do without the wheat crop. There is a little profit in it. He raised about 900 bushels on 50 acres. He uses one-fourth phosphate with bone, drilling in 400 lbs. to the acre.

R. Harris Archer said that if a strict account were kept of any crop the farmer would conclude it did not pay, but if a farmer wants to make anything out of his farm he must sow wheat even if as low as 50 cents a bushel. A bushel of wheat will buy more calico, muslin or sugar now than it would when wheat was \$1.50 a bushel. Besides, there may be a foreign war and next year wheat may bring \$1.

R. John Rogers agreed with other members that wheat raising is a necessity. There is little profit, at present prices, after the farmer is paid a living price for his work. Sowing wheat appears to be the only sure mode of getting a set of grass. A farmer must raise 25 bushels per acre to get a profit, but no man ought to seed a bushel without preparing his ground so that he may expect 25 bushels to the acre. In the effect to get 25 he may get 30 or more. The fertilizer that has given him the most satisfaction for wheat is bone and dissolved South Carolina rock, half and half, with 300 lbs. of kainit to each ton. He buys these early, empties them in bulk and mixes them together. The acid in the rock thoroughly decomposes the bone and makes it soluble. The mixture costs about \$21 a ton.—He uses 500 lbs. to the acre, drilled in with the wheat. It acts promptly. It is important to get the best rock and kainit.

The club adjourned to meet at the residence of Mr. Wm. B. Hopkins, near Lapidum, October, 9th.

EDITORIAL LETTER, No. 3.

WINTHROP, ME., Aug. 1886.

After sojourning a few days at Old Orchard and finding the weather too cold for surf bathing, we started for Bar Harbor, stopping over at the "Winthrop House" situated in this beautiful village between the lakes Maranacook and Annabescook where we shall remain a few days with our old friends. We notice it has become fashionable about here for small parties to pitch their tents upon the shores of these lakes and 'camp out' for one, two or more weeks to enjoy the pure air, fishing, sailing, etc., and the parties seem to prefer this mode of living to the crowded hotels. We spent a day in one of these tents located upon Tinkham's Point and enjoyed it exceedingly. We are sure the fish chowder was the best we ever ate, and we were kindly promised the recipe for making it and will give it to our readers in this No. of the FARMER. The table was supplied with everything the market afforded, but the fish chowder and coffee were so grand that we did not care for anything more. The fish were caught within a few yards of the tent. A short distance from the shores of the lakes are farm houses, where can be had plenty of vegetables, butter, eggs, poultry, &c. So with the fish there is no difficulty in supplying the tents with all their needs, and the cost is very small. We had the pleasure of visiting another tent on this shore sheltering a party of ten from Brooklyn, N. Y., who told us they preferred the camp to any hotel in the country. It is a great change from city life and they enjoyed it hugely.

Maine is evidently the great resort of the summer tourist. The most luxurious hotels afford comforts and enjoyments for those inclined to this kind of summer dissipation, and the lakes and woods afford facilities for camp life equal to any locality

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER, with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

for those who wish to "rough it" during a month's vacation. And all along between these two extremes, by the sea shore and by the mountain, are such a variety of sources for real pleasure that no wonder the tired and weary citizens from all parts of our country are flocking there to gain a store of health for the months to come of toil in business life.

While at the "Winthrop House" we learned that we were within ten miles of the celebrated farm of Mr. Bodwell, the present candidate of the Republican party for governor, (now elected). Having heard much in favor of both the farm and the fine stock upon it, we were desirous of visiting and examining it. Accordingly, early one beautiful morning in company with Col. C. A. Wing, we started. Arriving at Hallowell we called at the office of Mr. Bodwell and found him hard at work at his desk. Upon being introduced, we said to him "We had not called to talk politics or to solicit any office for ourself or our friends, but that our interest was that of the friend of agriculture, and we wished simply to see his farm and fine stock." In a few moments he had his carriage at the door and was ready to show us the farm, which was located in the suburbs of Hallowell.

We must say here that we were richly repaid for the ten miles' ride. There was nothing about the farm, the farm buildings, silos, etc., but what was convenient, durable and practicable, and might be adopted by any Farmer. In visiting the great farms of millionaires, improved so often regardless of expense, we are apt to find them of the mahogany finish, and so much of the fancy type, that they can be of very little advantage to Farmers generally; but this was not the case with Mr. Bodwell's. Although a millionaire, everything is plain and practical, and if he makes as good a Governor as he is a Farmer, the people of Maine will be

fortunate indeed, and will have just cause to be proud of their Governor.

Mr. Bodwell is not only one of the largest Manufacturers in the State of Maine, but he is also one of the largest Farmers, and with his partner, Mr. Burleigh, have imported more fine live-stock into Maine during the past fifteen years than all the balance of the Farmers in the State put together.

No men in this country are better posted as to live-stock than are Messrs. Bodwell and Burleigh, and their stock is generally purchased on the other side by Mr. Burleigh, he giving his personal attention to the matter. Mr. Burleigh's address upon this subject, delivered last winter in Boston, was published in the *MARYLAND FARMER* and was read with much interest in all parts of our country, and especially in the Atlantic States.

Returning from Mr. Bodwell's farm, we were conveyed to his magnificent dwelling where we partook of a sumptuous dinner with all the delicacies of the season, including Maryland peaches, grapes, etc., better than we often see at home. The occasion was made still more interesting by the presence of Mrs. Bodwell, whose pleasant and affable ways, refinement and intelligence, added much to our enjoyment. Mr. Bodwell is now about 68 years old, and is one of the most agreeable and popular men in the State. We would like to speak more fully of his manufacturing work in scythes, axes, edge-tools, etc., in North Wayne, superintended by Mr. Bartlett, but our space warns us to forbear.

Leaving Mr. Bodwell's, on our return, it was suggested that we pass through Augusta, the Capitol of Maine, and upon entering the city our companion, Col. Wing, pointed out the home of James G. Blaine, and suggested that we call. I soon found myself seated by the side of the great statesman in his parlor, where we spent an hour in familiar conversation in

the most agreeable manner. He was born in Pennsylvania, not far from the Maryland line, and appeared to know more about the public men of Maryland than we did who have lived in the State for forty-five years. Speaking of the increase of travel in Maine, this season, Mr. Blaine said this summer had brought 200,000 tourists to Maine who would leave in money upwards of \$7,000,000 in the state. He also thought this travel would largely increase in the future, as it came from all parts of the country.

Leaving Mr. Blaine, we called at the office of the *Maine Farmer*, the *Home Farm*, the *Kennebec Journal*, and upon a few other friends in Augusta, and then returned to the Winthrop House where we arrived early in the evening somewhat tired, but having spent a most interesting and delightful day, to which in a great measure we were indebted to our old friend Col. C. A. Wing. Finding we had one more day before leaving for Bar Harbor, we visited the Monmouth Cheese Factory, G. T. Delano, manager, which is situated at Monmouth Centre. This factory is supplied by 320 cows, all of which with the exception of ten are Jerseys, and are owned by 115 farmers, some living seven miles from the factory. No better cheese is made in this country than is made at this factory. Nearly all the fixtures, &c., were furnished by Messrs. Burrell & Whitman, of Little Falls, New York. There are two vats that hold each about 8,600 lbs. of milk. The milk is warmed by hot water and is kept up to 84° for one hour; after that it is brought up to 98° where it is kept about 2½ hours. They use one quart of Burrell & Whitman's extract of rennet to 5,000 pounds of milk, and use 2½ lbs. of salt to 100 pounds of milk. Their arrangements for receiving the milk from the farmer and delivering him the whey to carry back are very complete and convenient. The cheese is now sold at the

factory at 9 cts. per pound, except the sage cheese which sell at 10 cts. They have on hand about 42,000 pounds of cheese. The ladies who visited the factory with me were very much interested in sage cheese, and Mr. Delano willing to show his generosity and gallantry cut one of these for the ladies. In payment for the large amount eaten by them they agreed to send him a panful of doughnuts and all parted the best of friends.

The noted farm of the Rev. J. R. Day, who is said to be the greatest Methodist preacher in the country, commanding a salary in New York of \$10,000 a year, was within three miles of us; and learning that Mr. Day was spending his two months' vacation upon his farm making extensive improvements, we drove to his place. We found all his improvements to be on a gigantic scale. The barn and stable are among the most convenient we have ever seen. His stock of Jerseys and Holsteins are of the best. The silo was not filled and we should judge it would hold about 200 tons. We have not space to describe the improvements he had made, but shall do so some other time.

By invitation of E. M. Clark, Esq., we visited the farm of C. M. Bailey, "the great ox king of Maine," (as the *Lewiston Journal* calls him), and here we saw eighteen yokes of the finest working-oxen we presume that were ever seen together in any part of the world. They were from 2 to 5 years old. To give an idea of the size and weight we will name measure and weight of the oldest and youngest, and all the others are in like proportion of weight and size. One yoke, two years old, girth 7 ft. 6 inches, 3,400 lbs; one yoke, 5 years old, girth 8 ft. 9 inches, and weight 5,200 lbs. As we expect to see this team at the New England Fair next week we will not say more of them at this time. E. W.

No Gambling at Fairs.

The Secretary of the Illinois Board of Agriculture has lately sent warrants for \$100 to each of the Treasurers of the Agricultural Associations named below, on account of Fairs held in 1885. These amounts are paid in compliance with an act of the last General Assembly making appropriation for County and other agricultural fairs. This act provides that no warrant shall be drawn in favor of any Agricultural Society until the President and Treasurer of such Society have filed an affidavit with the State Board of Agriculture that no wheel of fortune or any other gambling devices were licensed or allowed on their fair grounds.

The following societies have made the required affidavit that no gambling was allowed at their respective fairs in 1885, and will receive the State appropriations, viz.: Adams, Boone, Brown, Cass, Coles, De Kalb, Farmers City and Clinton Fair Associations in De Witt Co., Edgar, Edwards, Hamilton, Hardin, Henry, Iroquois, Jersey, Jo Daviess, Knox, La Salle, Livingston, Logan, Marion, Montgomery, Moultrie, Ogle, Pike, Randolph, Eldorado and Harrisburg Fair Associations in Saline County, Vermillion, Williamson and Woodford.

The above, with the thirty-one societies that received their warrants last month, make a total of sixty-eight fairs that allowed no gambling on their grounds during the fairs of 1885.

[We have for years advocated this in the MARYLAND FARMER. It would give an impetus to this cause if our legislature would follow this good example.—Ed.]

An Enormous Business.

The following is clipped from the *Chicago Drovers' Journal*:

An exhibit of the business of Armour & Co., for the year ending March, 1886, recently made public, shows the following astounding facts: Total distributive sales, \$43,000,000; hogs killed, 1,133,479; cattle killed, 330,652; sheep killed, 63,262; lard produced, 55,142,952 lbs.; dry-pickled meats, all kinds, 51,508,386; spiced meats, 4,062,459; green hams and shoulders,

8,219,630 lbs.; smoked meats, 54,008,729 lbs.; canned meats, 33,696,460 lbs.; fertilizers, 22,461,522 lbs. Armour & Co.'s buildings cover thirty acres of ground and furnish a floor area of eighty-eight acres. Their chill-room and storage area is stated at twenty acres, and their storage capacity at 90,000 tons. During the summer season they employ 4,000 men and during the winter season 5,000. Their annual pay roll exceeds \$4,000,000.

[We remember having stood holding watch in hand and counting the number of hogs slaughtered in sixty seconds, at this establishment, and are not surprised at this statement.—Ed.]

Bay State Agricultural Society.

We have received the premium list and regulations of the new Bay State Agricultural Society, whose first exhibition is to be held at the Mechanics' Fair Building, Boston, Oct. 5—8. This new Society starts out with the plan of holding a general agricultural exhibition without the attachment of horse racing as a means of revenue.

[This movement is in the right direction. We believe horses may be exhibited in all their various paces without resort to racing. Let those who wish, attend races; while the agricultural fairs should be for other and better purposes.—Ed.]

THE third annual Exhibition, Picnic and Grange Camp, under the auspices of the District Grange of Northern Virginia, opened at Loring Station, near Washington, D. C., on 8th inst. and closed on the 15th inst. The place of meeting is twenty minutes ride from Washington. This exhibition is national in its scope and character and aims to advance the cause of agriculture and the industrial arts. Alex. J. Wedderburn, so well and favorably known to the Patrons of Virginia and adjoining States, made a grand success of the exhibition.

MARYLAND STATE AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL ASSOCIATION.

There was quite a good exhibit of horses at the fair, but on account of the report that pleuro-pneumonia was prevalent in neighborhood, owners of fine cattle did not exhibit. The show of hogs was not large but that of sheep was very good. F. C. Goldsborough, of Easton, Md., exhibited 15 head of Oxfordshire; Druid Hill Park 50 head of Southdowns; C. T. Cockey 40 head Shropshiredowns; Harry McCowan two pens of Arabian sheep. The show of agricultural machinery was quite large, nearly every implement used upon the farm was on exhibition. The great attraction, however, was the races, which were said to be very good. The receipts for the two first days of the fair it was reported would pay all the expenses of the exhibition; the next two days was a rain-storm and the fair was adjourned to Friday and Saturday which was good weather and a large attendance, making quite a successful exhibition for 1886 and we hope it will be still better in 1887.

TALBOT COUNTY FAIR.

A REMARKABLE SUCCESS.

ENERGY TRIUMPHANT.

In June last, a few of the enterprising Farmers of Easton and its vicinity, came together and discussed the propriety of forming an agricultural organization with the view of holding a fair this fall in Talbot county. The great advantages of such an organization with its annual fair were set forth by its friends and resulted in an organization, to be called "The Talbot County Fair Association," with the following officers: Col. F. C. Goldsborough, of Easton, president; Robert B. Dixon, Easton, vice-president; Robert

Hough, Tunis Mill, secretary; M. M. Higgins, Easton, treasurer. The directors are, Isaac L. Adkins, Easton; Robert B. Dixon, Easton; Edward Lloyd, Tunis Mills; Robert Hough, Tunis Mills; Jas. E. McDaniel, St. Michael's; M. M. Higgins, Easton; John M. Elliott, Easton; P. B. Spring, Easton; Wm. P. Powell, Tunis Mills; F. C. Goldsborough, Easton; E. L. F. Hardcastle, Easton; Chas. R. Wooters, Cordova. The executive committee are F. C. Goldsborough, Chas. R. Wooters, Robert Hough; John C. Bartlett, Easton, and N. Goldsborough, of Skipton.

Committees were at once chosen to raise funds, look for grounds and other facilities needed and to report at a future meeting. The report, on June 11th, was received, the grounds selected by the committee were accepted, all preliminaries completed, and about July 20th the work was commenced.

Messrs. Tunis and Dixon, of Tunis Mills, with their usual enterprise, took the contract to furnish the organization with 400,000 feet of lumber which was pleasantly referred to in the address during the fair, as at the time of the contract growing and flourishing in North Carolina forests.

Messrs. Bush and Whitehouse, of Easton, carpenters, had the contract to enclose the grounds, 45 acres, with a good, substantial fence, and to put up all the buildings. The grand stand, 250x26ft., building for the household department, 80x36ft., three stories high. The barn or hay loft, 80x36ft., two stories; about 400 horse and cattle stalls; large buildings for swine, sheep and poultry, with other buildings for the use of the society. They are all good, substantial buildings, (with solid brick underpinnings), and shingled roofs, calculated for permanence, and were completed within the space of seven weeks

The track was the most difficult undertaking of the society, and when examined by experts, the sum was too far beyond the means of the society to warrant a contract. Finally Mr. N. Goldsborough of Talbot, formerly a civil engineer, was prevailed upon to undertake the job, and in less than six weeks it was completed. The track is 60 feet wide—65 feet wide in the home-stretch—and is a dead level. It is pronounced one of the best tracks in the country and is properly fenced on each side. The track committee consisted of Dr. Smithers, Edward Roe and O. Byerley, all of Easton.

The water works, just completed at Easton, will be extended to the fair grounds.

We were present during the principle days of the exhibition and enjoyed the season with our many friends, who made us feel perfectly at home in their midst. The exhibition in all its branches proved to be an exceptionally good one. The show of machinery was the best ever seen in the State, and the exhibit of horses was large and very fine. The Eastern Shore Herefords are known in all parts of this country, and Col. Lloyd and Dr. De Coursey had their fine herds of Herefords on exhibit. The various breeds of cattle were well represented on the grounds.

Of sheep, Col. F. C. Goldsborough exhibited ten pens, and while we were standing by admiring them, every passerby seemed to express our own idea, saying as they passed "They are the finest we have ever seen," we can say even more, we do not think their equal can be found in this country. There were 100 coops of poultry, making indeed a grand show in this department. Of the vegetables, if the size exhibited is at all significant of the nature of the Talbot county soil, then it can certainly beat the world for excellence. We noticed one squash weighing 129 pounds, and a sizable

fellow also weighing 128 pounds. The onions, tomatoes and mangels were in proportion as to size.

The household department with its paintings, lace and fancy work, crazy quilts, preserves, jellies, cakes, etc., formed a fine exhibit. Its spacious rooms and tasteful arrangement add much to its beauty.

As a whole, the new organization has cause to be proud of its success, and to take credit to all who have so nobly carried forward in so short a period the plans of the society. Talbot county men accomplished all the work for themselves.

We have heard some suggestions as to making this the centre for the united Eastern Shore counties, where they may all be brought together in one grand fair, instead of being divided into several smaller ones. Why cannot some such arrangement be perfected? We should think it a very good plan. We shall refer to this subject again. Meanwhile we would be pleased to hear from our Eastern Shore friends concerning this proposition.

BALTIMORE COUNTY FAIR.

The fair was held at Timonium, Sept. 7th to 11th, and we are pleased to say it was well attended. A portion of the exhibit was better than usual. The display of agricultural implements was the best ever seen upon these grounds. The household or ladies' department was excellent, and there was a very good exhibit of vegetables and poultry. The show of livestock was not large. Mr. Robert Moore had a fine herd of registered Jerseys on exhibition which took the "ribbon." He is deserving of great credit for having the courage to make the exhibit while so many others stayed away, owing to the reports of pleuro-pneumonia. The horse-racing was said to be good and the grand stand was

well filled each day by ladies and gentlemen enthusiastic over their favorites.

Farm and road wagons.—First premium was awarded to the Baltimore Plow Co., E. B. Whitman, president; second premium to Thorn & Sloan.

Farm implements and machinery.—For the largest, most valuable and varied collection of farm machinery and garden implements, the society's "gold medal" was awarded to E. Whitman, Sons & Co.; second premium, the society's "silver medal," to Griffith & Turner. Diplomas were awarded to other exhibitors. We notice many of our lady and gentleman friends in the county were awarded premiums, of which we should be glad to make mention if we had the space.

We were indebted to the president of the society, Col. D. M. Matthews, Mr. Pentland, Mr. Von Kapff and others for their polite attention, and we hope to see the society increase in its usefulness and its benefits to agriculture.

THE Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, on September 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 1886, was a grand success. While we were not able to be present at this fair, we were glad to learn it was a success. Premiums were liberally awarded for horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry, dairy products, vegetables, fruits, flowers, etc. The receipts amounted to \$200.00 over and above all the expenses.

SILOS AND ENSILAGE.—My experience is that a silo built of wood is far preferable to one built of stone and cement. If stone is used, the ensilage, or a small portion of it that comes in close proximity to the wall, is liable to hurt. If wood is used for a silo and properly filled it will come out nice and sweet. I have feed silage two seasons to milch cows and breeding sheep and think very favorable of it. It also makes excellent feed for young and growing stock. A silo can be built quite cheaply of wood. There are quite a number being built this season in this vicinity. South Turner, Me. D. J. BRIGGS.

HORTICULTURAL.

SOUTHERN HORTICULTURE.

In the rapidly forward movement now being made by agriculture and those industries closely allied to it in the South, there is no more gratifying feature than the increased and intelligent attention being given to horticulture. Fruit should form a large part of the diet in warm climates, and nature, ever wise, makes fruit growing very easy in such climates. The people of the South should eat less meat than the people of the North, and fruit should form a correspondingly larger part of their diet. Health and economy demand this. Yet strange as it may seem, the farming population of the South always has eaten less fruit than the rural population of the North. "Hog and corn-bread" we must say, have ever found their largest proportionate consumption in the South, where they should have been eaten the most sparingly. This arose in part from the peculiar conditions which existed in *ante-bellum* days, and in part from the belief that the South could not produce fruit as did the North. How this belief originated it would be hard to explain. The climate of the South is better suited than the climate of the North to the production of all the most important fruits, with the exception of apples. Apples do best in the North; in fact, the best apples are grown not far from the Canadian line. But to offset this, the South can produce through its lower latitudes, those semi-tropical fruits which can not be at all produced in the North. All in all, the soil of the South is as well adapted to the growing of cultivated fruits as is the soil of the North. If the same intelligent effort be made, the territory South of the Mason and Dixon line will surpass in fruit-growing the territory north of that line.

This fact has dawned upon the minds of many progressive Southerners, and already, while fruit growing is not near so generally diffused through the South as through the North, there are spots in the Southern States where fruit growing has become an important and a highly numerative industry, and the South can boast some very wideawake and effective horticultural societies, local and state, and some horticulturists who are the peers of the best of the North. All these will conspire to forward this industry, beneficial alike to the finances and health of the Southern people. As the industry is profitable, every spot that it now occupies will be a nucleus from which it will radiate and spread; and the energetic societies will continually stimulate to better methods and more thorough work. We hope for the steady growth of Southern horticulture.

THE CABBAGE AND ITS ENEMIES.

At the meeting of New England farmers held in Boston last week, the subject for discussion was the "Cabbage—Its Cultivation and its Enemies." The subject might be considered a homely one, but if the statistics could be gathered of the loss of this standard vegetable by insects and disease, it would be found to be of vast magnitude. The *Ploughman*, from which we copy a brief extract, says, that homely as it may seem, yet it received a treatment at the hands of the farmers present, such as subjects of far more pretentiousness would be gratified to receive on all occasions. The cabbage and cauliflower are such favorite esculents, without which the daily tables of all classes of people would be inadequately provided. For this very reason they are of all the more importance in domestic economy. Mr. Gregory, of Marblehead, a notable raiser of both these vegetable edibles, took the lead in the discussion, entering upon the history of the plants, their great value as reliable food products, and the most improved methods of their cultivation. He especially interested all listeners present by illustrating,

in the case of the cabbage, the manner in which nature skilfully provides for the production of the cabbage flower, in which the seed is contained, by folding the succession of leafy wraps around it, which constitutes what we cook and eat as the head. In warmer latitudes, where such protection is not required, it is not furnished; and instead of cabbages the matured plants are called collards, which constitute a very large part of the "greens" of our Southern States, and are eaten invariably with bacon.

We can only give the following from Mr. Gregory's remarks:

The Enemies of the Cabbage.

The little turnip-fly that flies about so high (holding his hand about six inches from the table). When the plants are raised in a seed-bed they can be protected by a board some six or eight or ten inches high, which the fly will not fly over. But when the plants are set in the field by themselves, you must look out for them. Take a hot, muggy morning in summer, and in an hour or two the fly will destroy the cabbages on the whole field. Look out for it when the cabbage breaks ground. Put a little lime dust on them; when the plant gets up to the third leaf it is large enough to be all right. While I am speaking of the enemies of the cabbage, I should mention the aphidæ, or little lice which sometimes infest the cabbage. We have them some in Marblehead way, and I think that the explanation generally accepted is that the cabbage is in a diseased condition. When the plant comes to be healthy again they disappear, and so, in treatment for this enemy, the thing is to get the plant back into a healthy condition again. The cabbage will take care of them, if that is done. The best way to do that is by plowing around them, and by putting stimulating fertilizers around them. Barn-yard manure is not the most suitable. It is rather coarse. But after you have stimulated the plant with a good fertilizer, it grows stronger and throws off these lice. It gains in condition, and when it is perfectly healthy they will all be gone. Nature does not allow anything to be wasted, and I believe that the reason the lice attack these unhealthy cabbages is that they are not worth much as cabbages and they are more suitable for food

for these lice. When they promise to be of some account as cabbages, and are in good health, the lice leaves them. It is sometimes said that the rain washes them off, because they are noticed to be gone, some, or most of them, after a good refreshing rain. But the reason is that the rain has stimulated the cabbage and partly restored it to a healthy condition. It cannot wash off the lice.

Next comes another trouble. Occasionally we have a poor cabbage with a red stump. I think the cause of it is that the cabbage is run out by too close heading. Men that raise the same strain a long while, will not do well. The best remedy for this trouble, we consider, is to get new stock. It is best to get new stock occasionally and to cross the plants.

LIVE-STOCK RECISTER.

PLEURO-PNEUMONIA IN CHICAGO.

COMMISSIONER COLMAN PROPOSES TO
STAMP IT OUT AT ONCE.

WASHINGTON, September 27.—The Bureau of Agriculture is actively engaged in devising and putting in operation measures looking into the extirpation of pleuro-pneumonia, and Commissioner Colman has resolved to adopt every legitimate means in his power to check the outbreak of the disease reported from Chicago. An evidence of the anxiety and apprehension felt in the Western States is afforded by the following telegram received to-day from Denver, Col.: "In behalf of the live stock industry of the West, we earnestly protest against the sale, either private or public, of any of the cattle that have been exposed to pleuro-pneumonia in the vicinity of Chicago. Cattle sold under such circumstances must bring depressed prices, thus giving eager speculators abundant opportunity to spread the disease throughout the country."

[Signed.]

"R. G. HEAD,

President of the International Range Association.

J. A. COOPER,

President of the Colorado Cattle Growers' Association."

Commenting on this despatch, Commissioner Colman said: "These people must be crazy to think the department will permit any of those cattle to be sold. We have quarantined them, doubled our forces on Saturday, and are now going to send out some of the most expert veterinarians we have so as to stamp out the disease at once, and do everything that the department can legitimately do. We will not get through Congress the bill we expected to pass on this subject, so we can only second the efforts of the state authorities, and assist in carrying out the state laws. Under existing law, we can only stamp out the disease in a state with the permission of the local authorities. Sometimes the governor of the state will not consent to federal interference, so we can only second their efforts." The Commissioner has drawn up and forwarded to the governors of all the states and territories a series of rules and regulations for co-operation between the United States Department of Agriculture and the authorities of the several states and territories for the suppression and extirpation of contagious pleuro-pneumonia, and if they receive the consent of the state authorities, the bureau will make a systematic and determined attempt to stamp out the disease by attacking simultaneously every infested district.

NEED OF WEEDING JERSEYS.—Let a poor Jersey bull go into a neighborhood, and he will spoil the reputation of his breed forever. There are Jerseys and Jerseys, but common farmers will not understand it yet. Some families of Jerseys are but little better than scrubs for milk or butter. Every time a bull of one of these families is sold, the breed is injured. A farmer near me paid \$20.00 for a Jersey grade calf which at three years old is hardly able to pay for her keeping. She was bought simply because she was a "Jersey." Her owner will now do his best to convince all hearers that "Jerseys" are good for nothing. The Jersey breed will never be able to reach its proper place until breeders muster up courage enough to conduct a systematic killing of all poor bull calves.

THE TRUNK of a sycamore near New Madrid is forty-three feet in circumference.



HOLSTEIN COW "UNADILLA TWISK, 3RD," BRED AND OWNED BY UNADILLA VALLEY STOCK BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION, Utica, N. Y.

"UNADILLA TWISK, 3rd."

Our illustration this month represents the splendid Holstein, "Unadilla Twisk, 3rd," bred and owned by Unadilla Valley Stock Breeders' Association, Utica, N. Y., O. B. Hinkley, president, H. Langworthy, West Edmeston, N. Y., corresponding secretary. Mr. Langworthy is at present in the Western States attending the great fairs with a herd of their cattle, which took 1st, prize at the Illinois State Fair, 1886, 1st, prize on bull 4 years old, 1st, prize on cow 4 years old, and the great sweepstakes dairy prize on cow 4 years old. Catalogue giving full information of the Twisk family will be sent free on application.

HOW TO BUY A HORSE.

An old horseman says: If you want to buy a horse don't believe your own brother. Take no man's word for it. Your eye is your market. Don't buy a horse in harness. Unhitch him and take everything off but his halter, and lead him around. If he has a corn or is stiff, or has any other failing, you can see it. Let him go by himself a way, and if he staves right into anything you know he is blind. No matter how clear and bright his eyes are, he can't see any more than a bat. Back him too. Some horses show their weakness at tricks in that way when they don't in any other. But, be as smart as you can, you'll get caught sometimes. Even an expert gets "stuck." A horse may look ever so nice and go at a great pace, and yet have fits. There isn't a man could tell it, 'till something happens. Or, he may have a weak back. Give him the whip and off he goes for a mile or two, then all of a sudden he stops in the road. After a rest he starts off again but he soon stops for good, and nothing but a derrick could move him.

The weak parts of a horse can be better discovered while standing than while moving. If he is sound, he will stand firmly and squarely on his limbs without moving any of them, the feet flatly upon the ground, with legs plump and naturally

poised; or if the foot is lifted from the ground and the weight taken from it, disease may be suspected, or at least tenderness, which is a precursor of disease. If the horse stands with his feet spread apart, or straddles with his hind legs, there is a weakness in the loins, and the kidneys are disordered. Heavy pulling bends the knees. Bluish, milky cast eyes in horses indicate moon blindness or something else. A bad tempered horse keeps his ears thrown back. A kicking horse is apt to have scarred legs. A stumbling horse has blemished knees. When the skin is rough and harsh, and does not move easily to the touch, the horse is a heavy eater, and digestion is bad. Never buy a horse whose breathing organs are at all impaired. Place your ear at the side of the heart, and if a weezing sound is heard it is an indication of trouble,—*Rural Record*.

Dr. Loring's Instructions to the Judges of his Society.

"There is a term used here, "Instruction to Judges on *Thoroughbred Stock*," which does not belong here, under any proper nomenclature. I have said before, and I insist, that the term "thoroughbred" is entirely and totally inapplicable to any animal, but a horse. "A thoroughbred animal," means a horse. A thoroughbred horse is just as much a specific breed of horse as an Arab, a Morgan or a Percheron or anything else, and the use of "thoroughbred" in this connection is entirely unworthy so intelligent and literary society as this over which I preside. The term should be "purebred." I have a letter in my possession which will bear me out in this position. I have published one or two articles about it. Let us abandon the use of the term. If you have a purebred Shorthorn, or a purebred Devon, or a purebred Morgan, it is not a *thoroughbred* animal. They talk about *thoroughbred* pigs now! The word never applies to anything except a race of horses bred in England for speed. So, I hope the trustees, when they make up their list another year, will put in "purebred" instead of "thoroughbred."

A SHYING HORSE.

Why does a horse shy? Because he sees something which he does not understand, and is filled with a greater or less degree of fear, something what the boy feels when he shys at the burying-ground and goes around to keep clear of it. It may be some new or unusual object that the horse sees, or it may be an imperfect view of it. Even a familiar object, if it comes to view suddenly and unexpectedly, will cause a horse to shy or jump, just as an unexpected object or sound causes a nervous person to start. When a person is so startled, how much would it improve the matter to be scolded at or given a cut with a whip? Just as much as the same treatment would be required in the case of the horse. Harshness only aggravates the matter.

The more the horse is scolded and whipped the more nervous he gets, and every time he passes the place where the fright and whipping occurred he will recollect the unpleasant affair, and he will begin to prick up his ears and fidget, ready for another jump. Give him the lines, and he will go by in a hurry. The proper way is never to strike or scold a horse that is startled or frightened. Speak to him coolly, calmly and kindly; give him time to collect his scattered senses and make him feel that you are his friend and protector. When he sees that all is right, there is an end to all further trouble. We have seen a horse refuse to cross an unsafe looking bridge; but when the driver took him by the bits and walked ahead, the horse cautiously followed. Next time he required no coaxing or urging to cross the bridge. He might have been whipped into it at first, but was not the milder course although a little trouble, the better one? The horse showed his confidence in the driver ever afterwards.

DELOS HOTCHKISS, of Marion, Conn., has an apple tree in his orchard that is supposed to be 175 years old. Its annual yield is about eighty-five bushels of apples. The circumference of the trunk is sixteen feet near the ground. It bears fruit on five limbs one year, and on four limbs the next year. In 1876 it bore fruit on all the limbs.

HARD TO BEAT—The Westminister *Advocate* of last week says: "The greatest success in cattle feeding that has come within our knowledge has been done by Mr. Henry C. Cover, of Uniontown, this county. On the 16th, of last August, he bought two steers, which weighed 1,190 lbs. gross. On the 21st, of May, when they were sold, they were put on the same scales, weighing 2,600 lbs. This was an increase of 705 lbs. each in the nine months they were fed—an average of 78½ lbs. a month, and nearly 2½ lbs. a day. If any cattle feeder in Maryland, Virginia or Pennsylvania has done as well or better we should like to hear from him. The steers were bought for \$41.65, and were sold for \$141.70.

BIG TREES.

AN OAK in Barnwell county, S. C., measures 24½ feet in circumference, eighteen inches above the ground.

A WHITE OAK TREE on the premises of Amos Harvey, of Mansfield, Burlington county, N. J., measures twenty-one feet in circumference.

A LEMON TREE on the farm of Thomas Kennedy, at Koonan's Lake, Fla., nineteen years old, has borne fruit eleven years and has earned for its owner \$106 in a single season.

AN APPLE TREE in Mercer county, Ky., has borne fruit for sixty seasons without failing. Five feet from the ground its trunk is ten feet and nine inches in circumference.

LOVE CAKE.—One cupful of powdered sugar, three tablespoonfuls of melted butter with three eggs, three tablespoonfuls of milk, one and one-quarter cupfuls of sifted flour, one and a half teaspoonfuls baking powder. Bake in three layers. Filling: two-thirds cupful rich, thick cream, three tablespoonfuls powdered sugar, one teaspoonful of vanilla. Whip altogether till very light, then spread between the layers of cake, which must be cool.

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER, with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

POULTRY HOUSE.

CHICKENS.

Prepare in season for the cold weather which this month promises, and of which frosty nights are a warning. It will not do to put off the work and expect the chickens to do just as well, as if their premises were properly cared for. Do not allow them to spend their nights in a house wherein the cold winds make severe drafts and where they will get chilled. It is just as easy to have the windows arranged now as to wait until the hens have stopped laying; and by doing this work at once their laying will be prolonged far into the winter, perhaps. Arrange the floor of your chicken house so that it will be several inches higher than the ground outside, and so that it will be perfectly dry. A great deal as to success depends upon this last, that the floor shall not be sloppy, wet, or that the house shall not have a damp, unpleasant feeling when you enter it. Dryness with plenty of fine litter, such as forest leaves, cut hay or straw. Provide also plenty of sunshine, so that both floor and litter may be kept as dry as possible. See that the roof is arranged so that the water will not leak into the house and moisten the floor and litter. Have the soil slope away from the house on all sides so that the water will be led away from instead of into the house. Provide a good lock to the door, and teach the flock to go regularly to their roosting places, for this will save a good deal of trouble to you when winter colds come on. Do such things as these now, "take time by the forelock" and your flock will more than repay you for your foresight and prompt care in the number of eggs produced and in the uniform good health enjoyed by them.

Subscribe to the MARYLAND FARMER, with a premium, only \$1.00 per year.

Color of Egg-Shells.

Dark-shelled eggs are the fashion; but we are inclined to think that is all there is to it. An egg with a white shell is just as likely to be a rich one as though it was a dark-colored one. The character of the egg depends much more upon the food of the hens than upon the color of the shell, and a hen that lays a dark-shelled egg if she is fed upon the slops, garlic and barnyard refuse, will not give a good flavored and rich egg. So the hen which lays a white-shelled egg if fed upon rich food, sweet grain, will give a solid, rich, good flavored egg. We do not doubt that some breeds of chickens give us better eggs than others, just as some breeds of cows give better milk than other breeds, but a very great deal in both cases depends upon the character of the feed.

Weight of Eggs.

We wish to place ourself on the side of of those who advocate the sale of eggs by the pound instead of by the dozen. We see no reason why a business of such great magnitude, involving at least \$100,000,000 should not be regulated by law in a just manner. That potatoes should be sold by the pound is made imperative, but the crop of potatoes bears no comparison in value to the crop of eggs, and there never has been so great a difference between the measure of potatoes and their weight, as there is in eggs. That the purchaser should pay just as much for a dozen eggs that weighs only 18 ounces, as he would pay if they weighed 28 ounces, seems unjust in the bare statement of it. The law alone can regulate this.

Please Send for Sample Copies.

Will our readers drop us a postal card and order as many sample copies of the MARYLAND FARMER as they can put into good hands, or send us the names of farmers to whom we might send sample copies. If our readers will do this, we shall feel greatly indebted to them,

To the Editor of the Maryland Farmer.

ICE-HOUSE.

I do not think there can be any better suggestion than to construct an ice house at this season. A store of ice is not only a source of pleasure but of health as well. While in water is not wholesome, water cooled to an agreeable temperature is more healthful than water not so cool, and ice, by keeping meats and vegetables fresher, makes them more wholesome. A store of ice is also money-saving and money-making. The woman with ice can make butter that will sell for the top of the market, or keep fruits and vegetables in such condition that they will sell for more than they would if not freshened; while ice will prevent vegetables and meats from spoiling, milk from souring, etc., thus saving money.

So many and obvious are the benefits that may be stored in an ice-house, to be brought out during the summer, that the scarcity of these stores upon our farms can be explained only by exaggerated notions of their cost. The labor of cutting and storing the ice is not half so great as I find the great majority of farmers imagine it to be, while as good an ice-house as any, although of course not a very attractive structure can be erected in most localities at a cost of less than five dollars in money. All that is required are a roof that will keep out the rain, drainage that will carry away surface water and the water from the ice, and double walls that will hold saw-dust. The material does not matter, so that it will answer for these purposes. The roof may be of clapboards or boards, the sides of inferior boards, slabs or poles. A very satisfactory ice-house that I know of is made of poles. A pen of the size desired for the interior of the ice-house was built up, the poles being notched to prevent their rolling and also to reduce the cracks between them. Then in the same manner another pen was built around this one, eighteen inches from it in every part. The space between the two pens was filled with sawdust, tramped solid. Boards laid on pole rafters made the roof. Another satisfactory ice-house is single-sided, the ice being laid about eighteen inches from the walls and the space between being filled with saw-

dust as the ice is built up. Proper drainage is best secured by laying closely side by side pieces of rails to a depth of eighteen inches, tramping them down solid. The larger the ice-house is the better the ice will keep. It should not be less than sixteen feet long, twelve wide and ten high. Leave the gables open for ventilation, making them to project enough to keep out rain and snow. Such a house will preserve ice as well as the most costly structure, and is within the means of the poorest. Those who are rich may prefer a handsomer building, but they cannot get more real enjoyment and good from it.
Quincy, Ill. JOHN M. STAHL.

MARYLAND AGR. COLLEGE.

We are pleased to be able to record the exceptional success of this college for the current term. Thirty of the students of last term are now back and thirty-five additional students have been received, making an aggregate of 65 now in attendance, with the prospects of more. The attendance will be fully double that of last year, and shows the power of well directed effort on the part of the present administration. The entire building has been renovated and refurnished, and is in the finest condition, attractive and satisfactory to students as well as to the professors.

We understand that an invitation is extended to all interested in agricultural pursuits, to visit the college whenever they find themselves able to do so, to examine its condition and its facilities for work. The president and faculty are confident from past experience, that an examination will always result in good. We hope that the Farmers of Maryland will realize the great good this college can accomplish for them, and give it their hearty support.

It must be gratifying to the president and those in charge of the college to observe the many favorable notices in the press throughout the State, of the present very acceptable condition of the college

management. To this will undoubtedly be added the congratulations of the press, when it is generally known that its prosperity is so decidedly on the increase.

To carry out the law for the analysis of fertilizers passed by the last legislature, additions have been made to their laboratory, until now it stands among the most complete in our country, and if surpassed, it is only by such institutions of unlimited means as the Johns Hopkins University. Let our Farmers take note of this fact, and act accordingly.

OUR AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES.

Because a college does not teach a boy how to hold a plow and dig a post-hole better than his father can, it should not be condemned; it is the business of the farmer rather than the college, to teach these things. The college is established to teach the students advanced practical ideas, that, as yet, have not become familiar to the common farmer; so it becomes the duty of the professors to teach the students the condition of the soil that is best adapted for the growth of the different crops rather than the particular manner of holding the plow; the different elements and the different properties of the plant food in different kinds of manures rather than the particular manner of loading it into the cart; the nature of a tuber and the best method of preparing it for planting rather than the particular method of digging potatoes; the nature and amount of animal food in an ear of corn rather than how to husk it. The first duty of the colleges is to teach the minds of the scholars; this may be followed by training their hands, especially in the performance of such work as they cannot be trained in at home. Because our colleges are not just what we think they ought to be we should not try to tear them down, but we should exert ourselves to build them up and improve them until they become as near perfect as possible. We must remember that perfection is not found among the works of man. It should also be remembered that agricultural colleges are new institutions, therefore they open a new field to explore.

It is very difficult to find the proper men to fill the different offices of the college. It requires time for men to properly fit themselves for the new duties, but if we will be patient they will in time come up to the required standard. There can be but little doubt that the farmers, when they fully understand the objects of our agricultural colleges, and fully realize the necessity of giving the coming farmer a higher education than the present have, will undoubtedly exert themselves to place the colleges where they will be in a condition to do well the important work assigned them. Because every student that graduates from an agricultural college does not immediately go into the farming business and become rich, we should not get mad and try to kick the institution over; it must be remembered that we live in a free country, where each man follows the occupation that seems to offer him the best opening, and it should not be forgotten that the money to support the colleges comes from all classes.—*Edmund Hersey in Mirror and Farmer.*

REPORT OF CORN CROPS FOR SEPTEMBER.

From Agricultural Department.

In Maryland corn made improvement on rich uplands in good tilth even in districts abnormally dry, while it is parched upon light sandy soils. In bottom lands the excess of moisture through most of the season proved a bar to good condition which no transient favorable influences could improve.

The best uplands in Virginia bear a fine crop. Where well cultivated the crop is in high condition. Much of the area in bottom lands has been quite too wet. The gray lands will not have a large yield. Some late corn has had too dry a season in August, and is suffering in consequence.

There has been manifest improvement during the past month in the North Carolina crop. The wet soil and poor cultivation of much of the breadth, up to the latter part of July, cannot be wholly remedied by better conditions in August. Yet one county claims the best crop in ten years in the uplands, and an average in the bottoms; and others make returns nearly as favorable. South Carolina makes returns of the similar tenor. Some of the bot-

tom-land acreage is completely ruined by excess of moisture.

The crop is fine in Georgia on well cultivated uplands; best on the red clay loams.

There has been an average harvest in Florida where a part of the crop is already gathered, notwithstanding injury by storms and super-abundance of moisture.

The Alabama crop is not quite an average one.

August was dry in Mississippi, and in many places lowland areas are best. The crop will not be an average one.

The Louisiana and Arkansas crops are the best in the South, above average in condition, and as little injury by any causes of low yield as in the most favorable years.

The harvest in Tennessee will show an average crop. There has been material improvement in August.

There was too much rain in West Virginia, as in most of the country east of the Mississippi, there is a full average crop, a little late.

In Kentucky, as in Ohio and Indiana, the crop may be deemed an average. More rain in August would have given a better yield.

The crop is late in New England, and in sandy soils pinched by drought in many quarters. In New York, more noticeably in the eastern part of the State, the lack of needed moisture is shriveling the blades and shortening the ears somewhat. In the other Middle States, especially New Jersey, excessive rains in the early season followed by drought have been injurious to corn-crop prospect.

RYE.—The general average of this crop is good, being 93.4 per cent. of a full crop.

BARLEY.—The crop of barley is, on the whole, satisfactory. In California, which takes the lead in its productions, having over one-fourth of the entire acreage under this grain, it falls but one point short of a full crop. In New York, which stands next in order of production, the percentage is 94, having been lowered by drought in several counties. The general average for the whole country is 92.7 per cent. of a full crop.

SELECTING SEED CORN.

Before the corn crop is cut up or gathered from the stalk, a day or two should be spent in the field selecting seed corn for the next year's crop. A man who grows forty acres of corn can hardly use a day to better financial purpose than by spending it in the field selecting seed. The selecting should be done while the ears are still on the stalks and they are yet green. This is necessary that the character of the stalks, as well as the ears, be observed. And one who has been in a corn field knows how the stalks vary; some are large, some small, some short, some tall, some have two, three or more ears, and many have none. This last class of stalks should not be allowed to exist in a field from which seed corn is to be selected, for the pollen from them fertilizes other ear-bearing stalks. But it is too late to remedy that evil for this year.

As the grain is the object sought in raising a corn crop, the selections should be from those stalks bearing the largest proportion of this to stalk. A little investigation in the field will show that the largest and best ears are, as a rule, produced on the largest and tallest stalks, but rather on the medium sized, shorter ones. It will be observed, too, that unless effected by disease or insects, the medium sized stalks, bearing the best ears, are the first to ripen. The growth of such has been more continuous through the season, and have been able to mature their seed more quickly and perfectly. Size, then, of stalks, and time of ripening, are two points to be observed in selecting seed corn, and it is obvious that these can only be considered while the corn is yet standing and somewhat green.

After noting the character of the stalks, then that of the ears must be looked to closely. The attachment of the ear to the stalk and the character of the husk, are points worth considering. Any one who has gathered corn knows how much easier and faster certain kinds can be gathered than others, solely because of the difference in this regard.

Then the size and character of the ear must be considered. The model ear is one having a small cob, deep grains set closely with the tops of the kernels square, so

there will be as little vacant space as possible between the rows. Rows should be straight, and the ear preserve a nearly equal size from butt to tip.

As the selecting for all the points named above can best be done while the corn is yet somewhat green, rather than picking the ears from the stalk, we prefer the plan adopted by Pro. Sanborn at the Missouri Agricultural College. The stalks on which the selected are borne, are cut, carried out to the edge of the field and put in very small shocks until thoroughly dried, when the corn is husked out and housed. The place of storage should be dry and have an even temperature, and be free from rats and mice.

All this care and work may seem useless and foolish to many, but we are convinced that for a man growing forty acres of corn, a day spent thus will increase his crop at least fifty bushels, and probably twice that.—*Colman's Rural World*.

ROWEN.

There is harvesting to be done in the field and garden. Some of the mowing lands should have a second crop, which is worth cutting; It is much better to cut every crop which will make one-quarter of a ton of hay to the acre, even though the market price of the hay does not pay for the labor, than to let it remain and die down upon mowing land.

The accumulation of dried grass upon the surface of such fields may enrich them when it shall be plowed under so that it may decompose, but it is at the cost of smothering out all the finer and more nutritious grasses. And it is doubtful if the manure made from it when fed out would not do more to enrich the soil, as the waste in this decomposition would equal the nutrition taken from it by feeding. Such dried grass raked in with the next year's crop is an injury to the hay, both for the market and for home use. It is therefore better, if it is so scattered or so light as not to pay for mowing, to feed it down, but not feed too closely or too late in the season.

It is feeding closely just before a hot and dry season, or just before winter comes, so that the grass roots are exposed too much to the rays of the sun, or not protected from

being thrown out by freezing and thawing during the winter, that is liable to injure the future crop. As a general rule, mowing lands, if on firm land, are benefitted rather than injured by allowing the cattle to run on them in September, or by cutting a second crop from them.

The value of rowen hay, when well cut and well cured, is hardly appreciated by farmers. The chemists do not rate its nutritive elements as high as that of grass cut at the first crop, but it is easily digested and the cows will give more milk for it and keep in as good condition of flesh as upon any hay given them. Particularly is it profitable if used for one feed each day in the latter part of winter. Therefore it should be put where it can be reached when wanted. As the sun is not as hot or the air as dry in September usually as it is in July, it will take a longer time to properly cure hay in this month, and it is also true that the rowen and the late grasses in fresh and salt meadows, and the late sown millet which may be ready to cut this month, need more drying than the earlier grasses.—*N. Y. Herald*.

TO OUR READERS.—The enterprising firm, Messrs. Mabley & Carew, greet the readers of the MD. FARMER with their attractive Fall and Winter announcement. With us it becomes a pleasure to recommend the business methods and dealing which is among the most evident causes of the remarkable success experienced by Messrs. Mabley & Carew since their house has been established in Baltimore. A visit to their mammoth establishment will prove both instructive and interesting. A glance at their advertisement in this Journal will show that the firm extends a cordial invitation to all visitors to make their store the headquarters of strangers coming to Baltimore, either on business or pleasure. Their preparations for the Fall and Winter season are on the most extensive scale, and with the extremely moderate prices charged by the firm, it is safe to predict a lively fall trade which will prove a deserved reward for their enterprise.

W. C. T. U.

The 12th annual convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Maryland, will be held in Baltimore, Oct. 7, 8 and 9. The Baltimore ladies extend an earnest invitation to the women of Maryland to the convention, and urge them to join the "White Ribbon Fraternity." An unusually large attendance is expected. Mrs. Washington, one of the National officers, Miss Jennie Smith, the "R. R." evangelist and Mrs. Hannah Whitall Smith, who was present at the formation of the World's Women's Temperance Union, will be present. Very interesting subjects will be discussed.

[Every legitimate method to further the interests of temperance in the midst of our homes should receive the earnest commendation of the press, and we heartily sympathize with the efforts of the women to lessen the influence of the saloons in our country. The great sufferings caused by intemperance fall upon the women, and we hope the attendance at these meetings will greatly aid their cause.—ED.]

Pleuro-Pneumonia in Pennsylvania.

Pleuro-pneumonia is raging with unprecedented violence among cattle in Limerick township, Montgomery county, as well as some neighboring districts. Dr. Gilbert reported to the State board of health eighteen cases in Limerick alone, and the farmers find that the only remedy is to kill the cattle, leaving the State to pay for them. A movement is on foot among the farmers to hold a convention to petition the legislature to take more effective measures to stamp out the disease and with the Western States ask aid from the general government.

CATARRH CURED.—A clergyman, after years of suffering from that loathsome disease, catarrh, and vainly trying every known remedy, at last found a prescription which completely cured and saved him from death. Any sufferer from this dreadful disease sending a self addressed stamped envelope to Dr. Lawrence, 213 East 9th St., New York, will receive the recipe free of charge.

Large Milk Yield.

Editor Maryland Farmer :

In footing the milk records of our herd of cows, we find that our entire herd of mature cows which have finished their year's records to date, all that have closed their records within a year, average 17,166 lbs. 4 ozs. each, and our entire herd of heifers which have closed their 2-year-old records in the same time, average 12,409 lbs. This far surpasses any records which we have heretofore made and is very gratifying to us, as an evidence that our system of breeding is proving very successful and convinces us that we did not make a mistake in the families which we selected as the foundation of our herd.

Yours truly,

SMITHS, POWELL & LAMB.

Syracuse, N. Y.

Acknowledgment.

CINCINNATI, O., Sept. 24, 1886.

Editor Maryland Farmer :

Orders are coming in rapidly, especially for our "Portable Mills," and we are happy to be able to state that we have received a number of inquiries from our advertisement in the MARYLAND FARMER.

Yours very truly,

STRAUB MACHINERY CO.,

[The above is only a sample of the many communications we have received from advertisers all over the country.]

RENICK'S STATION, KY., Dec. 25, '83.

F. LOWRY, *Agent for the Atlantic Dynamite Co. :*

DEAR SIR:—In answer to your inquiry about the use of "Judson Powder" for stump blasting, I would say that I never used any powder that would equal the "Judson." I have used 2,000 pounds on my farm and it has given the best of satisfaction. Please send me 600 pounds of "Judson Powder," 50 pounds "FFF," 500 feet fuse and 200 caps.

Respectfully,

BENJ. H. JONES.

DOMESTIC RECIPES.

FISH CHOWDER.—Cut a quarter of a pound of salt-pork into little squares and put into the stew pan, fry slowly for twelve minutes. Have about two quarts of potatoes peeled and cut into thin slices also five medium sized onions sliced thin. Put a layer of the potatoes and then a layer of onions on top of the pork. Continue this until all the potatoes and onions are used, then cover with boiling water and simmer gently until potatoes are half done. Put two quarts of new milk on the stove to scald. Take from twelve to twenty crackers and pour boiling water over them and put into the milk to scald, add one-half pound of butter to the milk and crackers. When the potatoes are half done, add the fish, cook ten minutes longer, then add the milk and crackers. dredge well with salt and pepper. After the milk has been added let it boil up and remove from the fire immediately to prevent scorching. A little sweet cream is a great improvement.

ANNA.

Head cook at Tinkham's Point,
Lake Annebescook, Kennebec Co., U. S. A.

[By reference to our letter from Winthrop in this No., it will be seen how we appreciated the chowder made after the above recipe.—ED.]

ENGLISH WAFFLES.—These are very rich, and when sugar is added are an excellent dessert, eaten with a sauce. Half a pint of cream, and flour, to make a thin batter. Beat the yolks of three eggs in it with the egg-beater 'till it is very foamy, then put in the whites beaten stiff, with a pinch of salt, and bake, observing directions. Waffles are made from yeast, setting them over night as one would buckwheat cakes, taking care to scald the milk first.

POTATO SCONES.—Mash eight boiled potatoes while they are hot, mix with two ounces of sugar, dissolve half a yeast cake in half a pint of warm milk; beat together, then mix with flour enough to make a *soft* dough, let it rise; flour a board and roll out half an inch thick; cut into squares and bake. If you use an egg and a little cream with the milk, these scones are delicious.

Books, Catalogues, Reports, &c.

CATALOGUE of the Maryland Institute Schools of Art and Design.

A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE of Select Roses, from Ellwanger & Barry, Rochester, N. Y.

CROP REPORT of J. T. Henderson, commissioner of agriculture for the State of Georgia.

SPECIAL CIRCULAR of the Whitman Agricultural Co., of St. Louis, Mo., on "Hay Presses."

"WHAT THEY RAISE IN MINNESOTA," issued by the land commissioner of the St. P., M. & M. Ry.

THE bulletin from the Agricultural College, of Michigan, on the "Carpet Beetle," is interesting and suggestive.

REPORTS of Consular Agents of the United States, in reference to "Commerce, Manufactures, &c.," for September, 1886.

BULLETIN of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, quarterly edited by John L. Hayes, L. L. L., Boston, Mass.

THE FALL CATALOGUE of Vilmorin, Andrieux & Co., Paris, France. Also general catalogue of flowering plants for 1886 and 1887.

HERD BOOK of the Unadilla Valley Stock Breeders' Association. "Holsteins." It is for reference by all interested in purchasing pure-bred cattle.

"POULTRY FOR PLEASURE AND PROFIT," by G. M. T. Johnson, Binghamton, N. Y. A small pamphlet of about 50 pp. illustrated and giving many excellent directions on the general subject of poultry keeping.

"PERFECT BREAD," by Catherine Owen. We have shown our appreciation by copying from this publication. It is finely printed, square 12 mo., 50 pp. C. W. Bryan & Co., Holyoke, Mass. Price, 25 cents.

A HARD FATE it is, indeed, to always remain in poverty and obscurity; be enterprising, reader, and avoid this. No matter in what part you are located, you should write to Hallett & Co., Portland, Maine, and receive free, full particulars about work that you can do and live at home, at a profit of at least \$5 to \$25 and upwards daily. Some have earned over \$50 in a day. All is new. Capital not required. You are started free. Either sex. All ages. Better not delay.

CONTENTS FOR OCTOBER.

AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

| | |
|--|---------|
| Editorial Letter No. 2..... | 293-296 |
| Assorting..... | 296 |
| Trees in Fields..... | 297 |
| Paris Letter..... | 298 |
| Benefits of the Grange..... | 299 |
| Paint..... | 300 |
| Old Truths..... | 301 |
| Editorial Briefs..... | 302 |
| The Wheat Crop of Maryland..... | 303 |
| Deer Creek Farmers' Club..... | 304 |
| Editorial Letter No. 3..... | 305-307 |
| No Gambling at Fairs..... | 308 |
| Maryland State Agricultural Society..... | 309 |
| Talbot County Fair..... | 309 |
| Baltimore County Fair..... | 310 |
| Ice-House..... | 318 |
| Maryland Agricultural College..... | 318 |
| Our Agricultural Colleges..... | 319 |
| Report of Crops for September..... | 319 |
| Selecting Seed Corn..... | 320 |
| Rowen..... | 321 |
| W. C. T. U..... | 322 |
| Domestic Recipes..... | 323 |
| Books, Catalogues, Etc..... | 323 |

HORTICULTURAL.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Southern Horticulture..... | 311 |
| The Cabbage and its Enemies..... | 312 |

LIVE STOCK REGISTER.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Pleuro-Pneumonia in Chicago..... | 313 |
| Unadilla Twisk 3rd..... | 315 |
| How to Buy a Horse..... | 315 |
| A Shying Horse..... | 316 |

POULTRY HOUSE.

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Chickens..... | 317 |
| Color of Egg Shell..... | 317 |
| Weight of Eggs..... | 317 |

ILLUSTRATIONS.

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Unadilla Twisk, 3rd..... | 314 |
|--------------------------|-----|

THE

"MARYLAND FARMER"

A STANDARD MAGAZINE,

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Live Stock and Rural Economy,

Oldest Agricultural Journal in Maryland and
for ten years the only one.

EZRA WHITMAN, Editor and Proprietor.

141 WEST PRATT STREET,

BALTIMORE, MD.

BALTIMORE, OCTOBER 1st, 1886.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| One Copy, one year in advance, | \$ | 1 00 |
| Club Rates, 5 copies one year in advance | - - - | 4 00 |
| " " 10 | - - - | 7 50 |
| " " 20 | - - - | 14 00 |
| " " 50 | - - - | 32 50 |
| " " 100 | - - - | 60 00 |

Subscription Price or One Year, if not paid in advance, will be at the old rate, \$1 50 per year, and positively no deduction.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING

| | 1 mo. | 3 mo. | 6 mo. | 1 year. |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| One Square, 10 lines .. | \$ 1.50 | \$ 4.00 | \$ 7.00 | \$ 12.00 |
| Quarter Page, | 6.50 | 15.00 | 22.50 | 35.00 |
| Half Page, | 12.00 | 25.00 | 40.00 | 70.00 |
| One Page, | 20.00 | 45.00 | 75.00 | 120.00 |

SPECIAL OFFER.

The MARYLAND FARMER will be furnished the balance of this year, including this number and the entire year of 1887 for one dollar. Those wishing to avail themselves of this liberal offer will enclose to us one dollar in currency, check, P. O. Order or stamps, and it will have our prompt attention. The following blank may be cut out and filled up which will save the trouble of writing:

E. WHITMAN, Editor of Maryland Farmer.

Dear Sir:—Enclosed please find one dollar in.....for which
please send me the "Maryland Farmer," as per the above proposition.

Name,.....

Post Office,.....

County,.....

State,.....